

of Fame. Throughout his career in baseball, Tony has consistently conducted himself with integrity, character, and a commitment to community service, all the qualities that embody the best ideals of our national pastime.

I congratulate Tony Gwynn on his induction in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM: ELMA PHYLLIS STERLING

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of the late Elma Phyllis Sterling, a devoted mother and pioneering community leader in Fresno. Mrs. Sterling, a long-time Fresno resident, passed away on July 4, 2007. She was 94 years old.

Elma Phyllis Sterling was born on November 22, 1914. She attended high school and college in New Orleans. Upon her graduation from Xavier University, Mrs. Sterling served as a schoolteacher in Louisiana before moving to Oakland, CA, in 1944. Three years later, she married her husband, Feltus LeRoy Sterling, Jr. The couple eventually moved to Fresno, where they founded a successful funeral home that remains family-operated today. They raised four children, Consuelo Sterling-Meux, Cynthia Sterling, Feltus Leroy Sterling, Jr., and Alphonse Christopher Sterling.

In addition to operating a family-owned business and raising their children, Mrs. Sterling generously offered her time, considerable energy, and many talents to a number of civic organizations. At one time, she was involved with 15 different civic causes that were committed to make her community a better place for everyone.

A former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Fresno, Mrs. Sterling led a group of local civil rights activists to Alabama to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963. She also played an instrumental role in the establishment of the National Council of Negro Women in Fresno. Through her devotion to community service, Mrs. Sterling demonstrated an admirable and unyielding commitment to civil rights and social justice.

A renowned and widely respected community leader, Mrs. Sterling made history when she became the first African American to hold a seat on the Fresno City Council after she was called to public service by filling a vacant seat on February 27, 1969. As she had done throughout her life, Mrs. Sterling handled her tenure on the Fresno Council with her usual grace, dignity, and keen sense of fairness and justice. Although she did not seek to keep her seat beyond her appointed term, it is fair to say that the impact

of Mrs. Sterling's tenure on the Fresno City Council is still being felt today. Mrs. Sterling's example has inspired succeeding generations of Fresno residents to become involved in community service regardless of their race, creed, or color. In a fitting testament to her legacy, Cynthia Sterling, Elma Phyllis Sterling's daughter, became the first African-American woman to be elected to the Fresno City Council in 2002.

Throughout a rich and fulfilling life, Elma Phyllis Sterling gave her genuine compassion and precious humanity to protect, uplift, and empower those who are most often neglected in our society. Mrs. Sterling has left behind a legacy of service and the admiration of those whose lives she touched over the years. She will be sorely missed.●

RECOGNIZING DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I wish to recognize Debra Brown Steinberg for receiving an Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. This award acknowledges her work representing immigrants whose family members died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. As a recipient of the award, Debra joins an elite group of distinguished Medal of Honor recipients such as Lee Iacocca, former Chrysler CEO and author of "Where Have all the Leaders Gone?", as well as several former U.S. Presidents including Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton.

Ms. Steinberg, moved with compassion, responded to the attacks by playing a vital leadership role in creating the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest 9/11 Project in early October 2001. She also played an important role in the creation of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, which awarded a total \$7 billion to family members of individuals killed in the 9/11 attacks, by drafting the New York City Bar Association's comments on the interim and final regulations for the fund. Since that time, she has worked selflessly to ensure that the family members of victims of 9/11 are cared for.

Nearly 6 years after the 9/11 attacks, Debra Brown Steinberg is still fighting for the families of victims of the terrorist attacks—specifically immigrants without legal status in the United States who, after facing the traumatic loss of a family member on 9/11, now face potential deportation. As our Nation continues to mourn the loss of friends and family members who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Ms. Steinberg has set an example for all of us by helping families that have suffered greatly. Her selfless and persistent efforts have given these immigrant families hope that one day they will be able to grieve freely.

In addition to her work representing these immigrant families through the

9/11 Compensation Fund process, she has helped to draft the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, S. 615, which I introduced with Senator LAUTENBERG on February 15, 2007. This legislation would help immigrants whose family members were killed in the attacks heal from the tragedy as our Nation continues to do the same.

Our tradition teaches us to have compassion for the widow, the orphan, and the stranger among us. Ms. Steinberg's action representing the families of immigrant victims of 9/11 exemplifies such compassion.

We have much to learn from Debra Steinberg, and I am proud to honor her achievements before my colleagues in the Senate.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF STERLING, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that celebrated its 125th anniversary. On July 13 to 15, the residents of Sterling gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Sterling is a community in central North Dakota, only a short drive from Bismarck, the State capital. Sterling began as a railroad depot named Sixteenth Siding in 1873 and became home to settlers in 1880, who renamed it Ballville. In 1882, the post office was established with Oscar Ball serving as its postmaster, and the town then was renamed Sterling.

Sterling has always been a quiet, small town, maintaining a population of fewer than 250 people since its founding. It has nonetheless been home to many notable establishments over the past 125 years—the bank and hotel buildings still stand as a testament to the life of the town over the past century and a quarter.

Though the town may be small, the anniversary celebration was not small by any means. Over 1,000 people attended the festivities, a crowd comparable to the one at Sterling's centennial celebration 25 years ago. The celebration included dances, live music, a quilt show, a pickup mud run, and a parade, at which onlookers were showered with free gifts and wowed by the 100 horses that walked together at the rear of the procession.

Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Sterling, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Sterling and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Sterling that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.●